

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/244,419

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

Applicant(s)

KAMIMURA, TAKESHI

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/6/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-11 and 14-16 (renumbered as claims 2-10, 1 and 11-13, respectively).
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

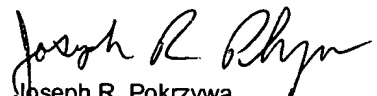
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20050418.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/27/99
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Primary Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 4/6/05, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 2-11, and 14-16** are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 2-11, and 14-16** are allowed (renumbered as **claims 2-10, 1, and 11-13, respectively**).

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding *claims 11 and 16 (renumbered claims 1 and 13, respectively)*, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious to have the system, as claimed, include the feature of having the image identifying server observe the efficiency of a plurality of terminals and select one of the terminals which have the lowest efficiency as the destination terminal when the plurality of terminals are associated with the single identification species in the workflow control table. The closest prior art, previously noted as Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591), Ogaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,819,040), and Geshwind (WIPO Publication Number WO 96/41463), each fail to particularly teach of this limitation. Because of this, the claims are rendered allowable.

Regarding *claim 15 (renumbered claim 12)*, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious to have the system, as claimed, include an operation document image featured by a species, a plurality of destinations, and at least one operation for each destination to be handled, whereby destinations are ordered in a workflow table to define

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a predetermined path for transferring the operation document image, wherein the operation document image is processed on the basis of one or more operations at each destination terminal, which receives the operation document image in the predetermined order. The closest prior art, previously noted as Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591), Ogaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,819,040), and Geshwind (WIPO Publication Number WO 96/41463), each fail to particularly teach of these features. Because of this, the claim is rendered allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement

4. Upon reviewing the application, the examiner noticed the Information Disclosure Statement dated 4/27/99 was not initialed and signed by the examiner. Subsequently, the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 4/27/99 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Drawings

5. The drawings received on 3/5/02 are not acceptable by the examiner. Upon reviewing the submitted drawings, the examiner notes that Figs. 2-4 now have handwriting that appears in the figures. The examiner suggests submitting new clean copies of the formal drawings. Additionally, in both Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, the word

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“identifiction” should read “identification”. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

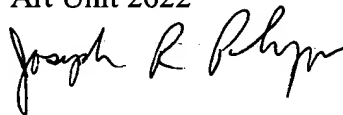
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Primary Examiner
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jrp